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Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/4. It contains a summary of the 10th meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force and the specific actions taken by its members to promote effective tobacco policies and assistance mechanisms at the national level, including multisectoral engagement in the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and progress to further integrate the aims of the Convention within the context of the implementation of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex).

The 10th meeting of the Task Force took place in Geneva on 13 and 14 March 2013. It was chaired by WHO and hosted by the International Telecommunication Union at its headquarters. Ten Task Force member entities participated in the meeting (see annex II). The meeting was followed, on 15 March, by the 5th meeting of United Nations funds, programmes and agencies on inter-agency collaboration for preparations on implementation of relevant activities of the Political Declaration. The United Nations inter-agency collaboration group on non-communicable diseases had been informally put in place in 2011 to facilitate inter-agency work on the implementation of the Declaration.

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Also at the 10th meeting, an overview was given of the achievements of the members of the Task Force to date, including updates on recent developments with regard to the Framework Convention at the political, technical and operational levels. Members of the Task Force provided information on their ongoing and future contributions to tobacco control activities. The need for a coordination and monitoring mechanism was discussed, and a matrix was drawn up to list concrete actions of the different agencies with regard to tobacco control work and Framework Convention implementation (see annex I). The importance of country-level work was emphasized and mechanisms to engage in an inclusive way were explored. In that context, opportunities for synergies and linkages between the Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control and the inter-agency collaboration group on non-communicable diseases were also addressed.

I. Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Council has been engaged in the area of tobacco control since 1999, focusing on the multisectoral nature and character of tobacco control challenges. Since 2012, it has been looking into the implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In view of the multisectoral implementation needs, especially among the developing countries, the Council has recommended a United Nations system-wide response, through the contribution of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control. The Secretary-General, in his reports to the Council at its substantive sessions of 2010 (E/2010/55) and 2012 (E/2012/70) in particular, recommended the integration of implementation efforts within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, where appropriate.

2. The Framework Convention is an evidence-based treaty, the first of its kind negotiated under the auspices of WHO. To date there are 176 parties to the Convention, making it one of the most rapidly embraced treaties in the history of the United Nations. The Convention is a multilateral instrument that provides a comprehensive legal framework to combat the global tobacco epidemic. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which is the central body that establishes the policy and programme of the Convention, meets regularly every two years. The fifth session of the Conference was held in Seoul in November 2012.

3. The 9th special meeting of the Task Force, held in 2012, looked at its members' contributions to support countries in the implementation of the Framework Convention, in particular in the light of multisectoral and integrated needs under different provisions of the Convention. The results of the meeting are contained in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the Task Force (E/2012/70). Following the consideration of that report, the Economic and Social Council adopted its resolution 2012/4, entitled "United Nations system-wide coherence on tobacco control", in which it, inter alia, calls for:

- Effective tobacco control policies with a view to full implementation of the Convention and assistance mechanism at the national level
- Task Force members to contribute to the goals of the Convention, including through multisectoral assistance mechanisms, in particular in the context of the challenges related to non-communicable diseases
- Options to effectively monitor the work of the Task Force and the integration of implementation efforts in respect of the Convention within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

4. Resolution 2012/4 also recognizes the crucial importance of full and comprehensive implementation of the Convention as an effective preventive tool in the context of the global epidemic of non-communicable diseases. The call for full implementation is also reflected in the outcome documents of global health and development meetings, such as the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-Communicable Disease Control, held in Moscow, the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Such calls for full implementation were fully echoed by the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework

Convention, in 2010 and 2012, respectively. Furthermore, there is a visible synergy in the decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Conference of the Parties, which has made it possible to provide unambiguous guidance to the members of the Task Force, WHO and the Convention secretariat.

5. As a major development that occurred after the last meeting of the Task Force, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. This is the first protocol to the Framework Convention and a new international treaty. Once it comes into force (after the fortieth ratification, as required), the Protocol would provide additional scope for inter-agency collaboration, in line with the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, the governing body of the Protocol.

II. Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force and its achievements: synopsis of progress on contributions with regard to the implementation of the Convention

6. The 10th meeting of the Task Force was attended by representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank and the Convention secretariat (see annex II). During the meeting, the agencies provided updates on their work in support of the implementation of the Convention and shared details of planned activities in 2013 and beyond in line with the areas of collaboration as outlined in the previous report of the Secretary-General on the Task Force. The individual actions taken by each agency are also set forth in annex I to the present report.

A. World Health Organization

7. Pursuant to the thrust of the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70) and the mandate contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/4, WHO continues to coordinate and participate actively in the multisectoral response and assistance received from the members of the Task Force on Tobacco Control. It is doing this through the work of the Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases department (which covers tobacco control), other relevant WHO entities, as well as the Convention secretariat (which operationalizes the work of the Convention in implementation activities, as mandated by the Conference of the Parties, in the spirit of a whole-of-WHO working approach.

Work implemented by the Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases department and other relevant WHO entities

8. The demand-side measures taken are as follows:

Capacity-building

- Working closely with the Ministries of Finance of countries to review their excise tax systems and improve their effectiveness and that of their training officials so as to increase their capacity in analysing their tax systems and improve them
- Developing training and training-of-trainers materials as well as providing training and direct technical cooperation in countries for: the implementation of smoke-free policies; bans on tobacco advertising; promotion and sponsorship; packaging and labelling, including plain packaging; tobacco dependence management; and product regulation
- Providing support to countries in the drafting of comprehensive laws on different aspects of tobacco control

Monitoring

- Providing support to countries in designing and undertaking surveys
- Closely monitoring the implementation of tobacco control measures globally and over time
- Monitoring adult and youth tobacco use
- Monitoring of tobacco outcomes (mortality estimates)

Media and campaigns

- Working with event-hosting countries and local organizing committees to successfully declare smoke-free such mega-events as the Winter Olympics and the World Cup competition
- Conceptualizing and undertaking the yearly World No Tobacco Day campaign used by countries' ministries of health and other partners (adjusted to their own needs)

9. The supply-side measures taken are as follows.

- Carrying out research on the level and types of illicit trade in tobacco products globally
- Providing expert input to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Working Group on articles 17 and 18

10. The following cross-cutting issues were addressed.

- Improving evidence on the link between tobacco and development
- Providing support to countries facing challenges on trade-related international obligations in relation to the implementation of some tobacco control measures
- Monitoring tobacco industry interference and assisting countries in developing action plans to counter the industry

Work implemented by the Convention secretariat, as mandated by the Conference of the Parties

11. The Conference of the Parties meets on a biennial basis to review the progress achieved regarding the Convention and to take decisions in order to promote its effective implementation. So far it has met five times. The Conference of the Parties has put in place the following multisectoral mechanisms of assistance, through which implementation assistance is channelled covering all provisions of the Convention as well as the cross-cutting issues mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70).

- Joint needs assessments
- Intercountry workshops on implementation of the Convention
- Assistance to parties on needs identified
- Database on available resources
- Promotion of the transfer of expertise and technology
- Provision of assistance in relation to the reporting obligation under the Convention
- Integration of implementation of the Convention into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
- Promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation for treaty implementation

12. The reports of the Secretary-General to the substantive sessions of 2010 and 2012 of the Economic and Social Council were reviewed by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth and fifth sessions. Decisions were taken by the Conference to mandate the Convention secretariat to promote these mechanisms of assistance where contributions by the members of the Task Force are recognized as "resources" and multisectoral assistance mechanisms in themselves. Detailed reports on implementation assistance provided in line with the foregoing mechanisms were submitted by the Convention secretariat to the Conference of the Parties, including to its most recent session. The various inputs of the members of the Task Force are contributing to implementation in areas that were highlighted as a challenge in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70), in which he examined the demand and supply side and other measures under the Convention, including the cross-cutting issues of trade and investment.

13. Details of activities undertaken by the members of the Task Force pursuant to resolution 2012/4 are described in the sections below, including a snapshot of activities to be undertaken until its next meeting, in 2014.

B. United Nations Development Programme

14. UNDP, as the convener and coordinator of the United Nations system at the country level, has a unique role in the context of assisting countries to meet their general obligations under article 5 of the Convention. This role is outlined in the report of the Secretary-General. Taking into account the requirements under article 5

of the Convention, UNDP has contributed to the implementation of the Convention in the following areas:

- Participation in the joint needs assessment on the implementation of the Convention, with a view to facilitating the integration of Convention implementation under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and in the national development and health plans/policies/ programmes at the country level
- Participation in the intercountry workshops on implementation of the Convention, with a view to raising the awareness of countries about the mechanisms of assistance available to them, upon request, in meeting their obligations under article 5 of the Convention
- Preparation of a joint UNDP-Framework Convention discussion paper on the Framework Convention and development agenda
- Participation in the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in particular, to raise awareness about UNDP and its possible contribution to assist countries in meeting their treaty obligations
- Development of a framework of cooperation with the Convention secretariat through a jointly signed statement of intent, for joint planning and programming of activities under article 5 of the Convention

15. Based on the understanding of the workplan of the Conference of the Parties, UNDP envisages the following activities in 2013 and until the next meeting of the Task Force in 2014:

- Follow up on the status of the integration of Convention implementation under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in particular, in countries where there is express commitment to do so based on reports of the joint needs assessment missions. In 2013, 24 per cent of a sample of 90 available United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks reference tobacco
- Raise awareness and promote the listing of Convention implementation under United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and as an international obligation and an important component of the action taken against non-communicable diseases in the annex to the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks
- Include making a reference to the listing of the treaty in the annex to the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in the joint follow-up letter of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Director-General of WHO to UNDP and WHO country offices on the work in non-communicable diseases
- Publish another discussion paper jointly with the Convention secretariat on a technical guidance tool to implement article 5.2 (a) of the Convention relating to national coordinating mechanisms. Provide support for other technical papers, such as regional studies that are specific to the UNDP mandate
- Provide support for a Convention-centric advocacy tool in the context of the post-2015 development and health agenda to highlight the Convention as the prevention tool in the context of the fight against the epidemic of non-communicable diseases. This advocacy tool could focus on "healthy life

expectancy under universal health coverage" as part of the whole-of-United Nations approach

C. World Bank

16. The World Bank continues to provide support for tobacco control activities in line with its mandate, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General in a comprehensive manner. The Bank works with all interested partners on tobacco control measures, including with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States of America, the Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases department of WHO and the Convention secretariat, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, local and international civil society groups, and academia. It supports comprehensive measures for tobacco control, with a particular focus on issues that are directly and indirectly linked to tobacco prices and taxes, as well as the impact of tobacco use on poverty.

17. Since the 9th meeting of the Task Force, in February 2012, the following contributions have been made:

- Participated in joint needs assessment missions and provided follow-up support to countries such as Kyrgyzstan, Colombia and Senegal. Its commitment to provide support to other countries where the needs assessment has taken place remains and support will be provided, upon request
- Co-sponsored a WHO-Pan American Health Organization seminar on tobacco taxes and illicit trade, held in Panama City
- Placed a greater focus, policy-wise, within the Bank, on poverty and tobacco use
- Provided technical assistance to the Government of Kyrgyzstan to include actions on tobacco control and tax increases in the health programme, and provided technical assistance to Senegal and the Gambia on tobacco tax reform. This reform has been approved and is currently being implemented
- Coordinated and co-financed with WHO and civil society, a study on tobacco taxes covering the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. This work is ongoing
- In coordination with WHO, civil society and academia, provided very intense technical assistance to the Government of the Philippines to draft and support the adoption of the sin-tax law, which includes a substantial increase in tobacco taxes. The law has been approved by the Parliament and the World Bank is currently supporting the Government's implementation and monitoring efforts
- Requested and received World Bank resources to work on poverty and tobacco control issues in Central and East Asia
- Organized a subregional workshop on tobacco taxation in the Balkans, with a special focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Another workshop was organized in Moscow in cooperation with the Government of the Russian Federation and WHO
- As an observer, provided comments regarding the drafting of the guidelines in article 6 of the Convention

- Participated in the Africa intercountry workshop on implementation of the Convention and in the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties
- In Coordination with WHO, technical assistance on tobacco taxation is being provided to the Philippines and Bangladesh

18. In 2013 and until the next meeting of the Task Force, the World Bank will do the following:

- Continue to provide support to and participate in the intercountry workshops on implementation of the Convention in order to raise awareness of countries about assistance available through the World Bank system
- Continue to participate and/or provide support to the joint needs assessment missions and follow-up on implementation assistance, and provide such assistance in the area of article 6, on price and tax measures, upon request
- Actively engage Bangladesh and India on tobacco control dialogue and co-organize a regional meeting on tobacco taxes in India, in September 2013
- Continue to provide support for policy dialogue on tobacco in the Russian Federation and Central Asia
- Publish one or two technical papers on tobacco taxation and poverty and tobacco
- Continue to coordinate tobacco control work with WHO and other partners at the country and global levels
- Provide support to the Government of the Philippines in its implementation and monitoring of the tobacco tax reform
- Continue policy engagement in Colombia, following the needs assessment undertaken in 2012
- Respond to demands for technical assistance on tobacco prices and taxes, as needed

D. International Labour Organization

19. ILO continued to support the treaty work through:

- Participation in the meeting of the Working Group of the Conference of the Parties on articles 17 and 18, regarding sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing
- Participation in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session

20. In particular, it was highlighted that in the context of the enforcement of smoke-free policies under article 8 of the Convention, on protection from exposure to tobacco smoke, such enforcement could be achieved, where appropriate, under the "decent work" country programmes. It was suggested that the flagship "decent work" programme could be seen as a tool within the country settings to promote smoke-free policies in the workplace. In addition, implementation of the ILO SOLVE programme could supplement the efforts of Governments in promoting smoke-free workplaces. ILO would make efforts to stimulate implementation of the programme in select countries and would update the Task Force at its next meeting.

21. ILO would also continue to provide support for treaty work in areas relating to articles 17 and 18, and through its involvement in the work of the Working Group of the Conference of the Parties as well as its participation in other relevant treaty work.

E. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

22. UNCTAD had been a member of the Task Force since its inception and was its first convener before the convening functions shifted to WHO. It provided the following update on its contributions to implementation of the Convention:

- UNCTAD established an informal internal working group on tobacco control issues and development covering areas of trade, investment, intellectual property and commodities
- UNCTAD contributed to the information base of the Convention in trade- and investment-related aspects of implementation through the meeting organized by the Convention secretariat for health and trade representatives of the parties and by providing technical support to developing countries
- The organization participated in the intercountry workshop in Africa on implementation of the Convention to highlight potential support and assistance by UNCTAD to countries in areas such as value chain analysis of the tobacco crop and promotion of sustainable alternatives under article 17 of the Convention, provision of information and technical support on bilateral investment agreements and technical assistance, and capacity-building on intellectual property rights and patent and copyright issues (e.g. provisions concerning Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)) that are relevant to the implementation of the Convention

23. For 2013, UNCTAD envisages:

- Publication of three technical papers covering a global value chain analysis of the tobacco crop, the relationship between international investment agreements and tobacco control policies, and issues of copyrights and patents pertaining to packaging and labelling under article 11 of the Convention
- Participation in intercountry workshops on implementation of the Convention to raise awareness about available mechanisms of assistance to countries and about joint needs assessment missions, where relevant
- The opening of its regional capacity-building trai ing workshops on international investment agreements to Convention focal points with a view to training-the-trainers and the provision of data on trade and trade barriers for the information platform. The provision of data depends on the availability of information and will be coordinated with WTO

F. World Trade Organization

24. WTO, within the scope of its mandate, continued to follow the work on the implementation of the Convention. It participated in the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties. The Convention secretariat, as part of the WHO delegation, also participated as an observer in various WTO bodies, in particular the

Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. It made statements in the March 2013 meetings of these two WTO bodies under the relevant agenda items.

25. Since the last meeting of the Task Force, WTO, together with WHO and WIPO, published a trilateral study on public health, trade and intellectual property, entitled "Promoting access to medical technologies and innovation: intersections between public health, intellectual property and trade".

26. Under the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, WTO has been asked to continue to share information on the interface between trade and tobacco issues, as appropriate, including in the context of WHO-organized technical assistance events.

G. World Intellectual Property Organization

27. WIPO was part of the first-ever joint study referred to in paragraph 25 above.

28. While not formally a part of the United Nations Development Group as are other member agencies of the Task Force, it reports that, upon request, it remained open to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to the States members of WIPO in the areas under its mandate.

III. Cross-cutting and other emerging issues

A. Synergizing the work of the United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-agency Task Force on Tobacco Control and the United Nations inter-agency collaboration group on non-communicable diseases

29. Following the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (General Assembly resolution 66/2, annex), and Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/4 and bearing in mind the natural relationship between non-communicable diseases and tobacco control, both the Task Force and the United Nations collaboration group on non-communicable diseases could be linked and transformed into a single United Nations inter-agency task force on non-communicable diseases, whereby the tobacco control section would have prominence, given that the Convention creates legal obligations for its parties.

30. Participants at the 10th meeting of the Task Force were unanimous in their opinion that it was beyond doubt that there were synergies to be tapped from the work of the Task Force, including the implementation of the Convention, on the one hand, and the work of the inter-agency collaboration group on the other. Both were mutually supportive and inclusive in terms of operational and technical issues as well as in terms of policy interventions. Given the potential of the Convention as the internationally agreed and legally binding preventive tool in the context of global health, support for its implementation was considered crucial in addressing future needs in the area of non-communicable diseases in general. This could continue to be supported by:

- Continuing to contribute to the implementation of the Convention in areas indicated above and gradually expanding the activities, depending on the availability of resources
- Mobilizing resourcing to provide for multisectoral assistance and joint programming at the country level
- Creating an effective follow-up mechanism within Task Force members' own settings to assist countries in coordination with WHO and the Convention secretariat
- Further promoting and refining United Nations system-wide coherence on tobacco control by following mandate areas and programming activities accordingly
- Following the matrix of potential contributions, as identified in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70), and maintaining it as an annex to the present and future reports of the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council

31. The natural evolution of the Task Force into a wider non-communicable disease agenda was therefore to be seen as a logical step for integrating the work on the prevention of non-communicable disease and on tobacco control. A special subgroup within the suggested non-communicable disease inter-agency task force would be dealing with Convention and tobacco control activities, to continue the important work on tobacco issues. The suggested inter-agency task force would have the mandate and the ability to provide support to countries and mobilize resources for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

B. National coordination mechanisms

32. One of the major challenges that were highlighted by the Task Force members was that there was an insufficient level of awareness in the United Nations country teams about inter-agency efforts towards tobacco control measures, including about the requirements for implementation of the Convention under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. Moreover, it was also highlighted that in many cases there was little traction for stand-alone national coordination mechanisms under article 5.2 (a) of the Convention, as such mechanisms existed for non-communicable diseases and were supposed to be subsumed under the broader non-communicable disease context. The possible way forward was to follow the following approach:

- Where non-communicable disease coordination mechanisms existed, it should be ascertained that the mechanisms should cover the relevant issues of tobacco under article 5.2 (a) of the Convention
- In the event that there was no non-communicable disease national coordination mechanism, the treaty should be used as a "resource" and legal obligation to strengthen Convention implementation as well as the response to non-communicable diseases
- Treaty implementation should be listed as part of a country's international obligations; such an effort would go a long way towards raising the awareness of United Nations country teams about integration of Convention

implementation under United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and the formulation of programmatic activities

C. Tobacco industry and its interference in the work of the United Nations system

33. In paragraph 38 of its Political Declaration on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, the General Assembly recognized the fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health. Article 5.3 of the Convention strongly advises parties to protect themselves from industry and commercial interferences. Preventing industry interference at the United Nations continues to be of importance for the Task Force. The tobacco industry has a long history of trying to infiltrate and prevent tobacco control work. The Global Compact, a United Nations initiative for voluntary corporate citizenship, has, unfortunately, seen a number of tobacco companies join this initiative and improve their image as socially responsible companies.[1] Vetting, awareness and monitoring should be priorities of the United Nations to ensure the highest standards. Guidelines and policies on the relationship with industry are necessary. IAEA and UNDP developed internal policies to ensure that tobacco-affiliated groups are not considered when setting up agreements with new partners and donors. Their policy decision could be used as a model for other agencies that do not have such clearly defined policies.

D. Surveillance and reporting obligations on the implementation of the Convention under the treaty and its impact on Global Health

34. An update was given on discussions about article 20 of the Frameworks Convention, on research, surveillance and exchange of information, article 21, on reporting and exchange of information, and article 22, on cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields, and provision of related expertise, with specific recommendations and action points. It was agreed that the challenges in those areas would need to be tackled in order to support compliance with the reporting obligations under the Convention as well as to assist parties to collect necessary surveillance data on tobacco use for reporting purposes under the Convention. The following way forward was agreed.

- Agencies such as UNDP and the World Bank, in addition to WHO, would provide support for the collection of data on tobacco use by examining the feasibility of measure DHS and other surveys to monitor living conditions in the developing countries that are supported by them. This would be accomplished in cooperation with WHO country offices without creating additional surveys, as the surveillance questions under the reporting instrument of the Conference of the Parties are already harmonized with, for example, WHO STEPs surveys
- To promote the fulfilment of reporting obligations under the Convention, UNDP, together with the WHO country office, would stimulate the country

[1] For more details on the Global Compact, see E/2008/59.

environment by seeking necessary clarification and providing required assistance to facilitate reporting as part of country international obligations

- Joint action would be taken with parties that have not reported on implementation so far as well as those parties that have not submitted regular reports in the second stage

35. In the context of the upcoming Convention information platform, which seeks to combine in one place the necessary information on the status of implementation of the Convention, the Convention secretariat requested the members of the Task Force to provide information and linkages to the information platform in their respective areas of contribution and mandate. It was agreed that members of the Task Force would provide:

- Appropriate linkages to the Convention information platform on their support activities
- Access to knowledge products that are already available on their websites
- Assistance in the development of indicators and a related data bank
- Information on available or possible assistance to Member States by their becoming part of the Convention database on available resources
- Information on their experience and inputs on proposed, online knowledge hubs for the Convention

E. Options for monitoring

36. The participants also discussed the options for effectively monitoring their activities in contribution to the implementation assistance in line with the requirements of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2012/4. In this regard, it is recommended that the members of the Task Force should continue to be guided by the matrix of potential contributions, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70) and continue to provide information and update one another and the Member States through regular reports submitted to the Council.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

37. **The 10th meeting of the United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control highlighted progress in a variety of areas in the political, technical and operational contexts, with a special focus on the implementation of obligations under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.**

38. **Members of the Task Force[2] expressed their commitments to continue, within the scope of their mandates, their efforts in the area of tobacco control activities according to their individual expertise and strengths, including by**

[2] It is understood that the role of WTO, in line with the decision taken by the parties to the Convention at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (decision FCTC/COP5(15)), is limited to information-sharing on the interface between international trade policies and tobacco control.

submitting a list of actions and verifiable deliverables for 2013 based on the areas defined and outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (E/2012/70).

39. **Members of the Task Force agreed, within the scope of their mandates, to join forces at various levels towards multisectoral tobacco control measures, inter alia, by integrating agency-specific expertise during joint missions and training programmes at the country level, including insertion of multisectoral actions in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks design.**

40. **The meeting agreed on the complementary value of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control and the informal United Nations inter-agency task force on non-communicable disease. Members of both coordination platforms stressed the need to ensure coherence in the work of inter-agency mechanisms and to avoid duplication. They concurred that both platforms should converge into a single United Nations inter-agency coordination platform for work on non-communicable disease, with a special chapter on tobacco control activities, including the implementation of the Convention. A suggested name for the United Nations inter-agency coordination platform could be "inter-agency task force on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases". The new mechanism would also answer the call made by the General Assembly upon WHO, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, in paragraph 51 of the Political Declaration on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, to work together in a coordinated manner to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and mitigate their impacts.**

41. **In order to maintain momentum and to accelerate action, it was agreed to hold yearly meetings of the United Nations inter-agency coordination platform on non-communicable disease and to recommend annual reporting to the Economic and Social Council for further orientation and guidance.**

Recommendations

42. **The following recommendations are submitted to the Economic and Social Council:**

(a) **As the implementation of the Political Declaration on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases moves forward, the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control should evolve to include the wider non-communicable disease agenda. A recommended new task force on the prevention and control of non-communicable disease would address all such diseases and include a specific subgroup to focus on tobacco, with the option to create other subgroups, as needed. Therefore, the members of the Task Force would like to submit to the Economic and Social Council the request for linkage of the Task Force with the inter-agency collaboration group on non-communicable diseases by agreeing on expanding the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control to include the broader areas of work on non-communicable diseases (prevention and control), removing the reference to the "ad hoc" nature of the mechanism and recommending amendment of its terms of reference in order to reflect a wider non-communicable disease agenda;**

(b) The Council may wish to amend the agenda item under which the work of the Task Force has been considered until now from "Tobacco or health" to "Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases", in accordance with the foregoing recommendation;

(c) The effective implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control requires strong action at the country level. The most relevant mechanism for country-level support is the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. However, given its limitations, such as the fact that not all agencies, programmes or funds are part of it, other instruments can also be examined. Increased cooperation and communication among agencies, in particular UNDP and WHO, is needed in order to take stock of the opportunities present in countries and to make sure that non-communicable diseases and tobacco control have a prominent place in the development of future United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

(d) Together with the work at the country level to integrate Convention implementation into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, inter-agency cooperation and the effective use of existing expertise should remain a priority. The matrix contained in annex I to the present report is a useful tool to monitor agencies' work in this area, promote a United Nations system-wide approach and avoid duplication;

(e) Careful attention needs to be paid to tobacco industry interference. To that end, in line with the principles of article 5.3 of the Convention and its implementing guidelines, the United Nations should adopt guidelines to ensure independence and objectivity in its work.

Annex

Matrix of work of the members of the United Nations Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control for the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Article of the Convention	*Agency*	*Specific action*	*Work undertaken in 2012 and 2013*	*Planned work throughout 2013 and 2014* (specify, when possible, the number of countries covered, the names of countries and/or the specific timeline)
Article 5 (General obligations)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Take into account requirements of article 5 in the UNDP country-level role as convener and coordinator, where appropriate and under its governance programmes	Joint letter from Helen Clark and Margaret Chan to Resident Coordinators and WHO representatives to incorporate non-communicable diseases and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks Baseline assessment of the degree of integration of the Framework Convention into development instruments (co-publication with the Convention secretariat) UNDP engagement in three country needs assessments to further involve Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams in Framework Convention implementation	Follow up communication with United Nations country teams regarding work in non-communicable diseases and the Framework Convention throughout the United Nations Guidance and tools development on article 5.2 (a) regarding coordination mechanisms Increased engagement with country needs assessments Engagement with the Mechanisms of Assistance Work Group to help coordinate article 5-related technical support to parties Assessment of tobacco and non-communicable diseases in the post-2015 development agenda discussions

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Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco)	World Bank	Provide support to countries with the design, implementation and evaluation of tobacco tax issues, upon countries' demand. This effort would complement ongoing efforts by the WHO/ Tobacco Free Initiative in this area Collaborate with the Framework Convention secretariat to assess the possibility of having joint needs assessment missions with regard to article 6 issues Conduct research to assess the potential regressivity of tobacco taxes as well as the impact of tobacco use on poverty Conduct research on the effects of tax increases on tobacco economic agents, particularly farmers, as well as illicit tobacco trade	Supported substantial tax increases in the Philippines, the Gambia, Senegal and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dialogue initiated in the Russia Federation Participated in assessments in Senegal, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan and, indirectly, in the Gambia Initiated contact to launch the study Carried out in the Philippines	Continue to provide support to the Philippines, deepen dialogue in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus, and initiate dialogue with Bangladesh Participate in the upcoming assessments missions in Nepal and other countries Continue the study Carry out analysis in Bangladesh and likely in other countries on demand
Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Implement the ILO SOLVE programme (an interactive educational programme designed to assist in the development of policy and action to address health promotion issues in the workplace) to promote smoke-free workplaces	The ILO contribution to the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases concerns the prevention of occupational diseases and workplace health promotion. As tobacco use is one of the main risk factors for non-communicable diseases, the promotion of smoke-free workplaces (measures to provide protection from exposure to tobacco smoke in public places)	ILO will continue its training programme at the International Training Centre (ITC) and supporting Member States through decent work country programmes in 2013-2014. In 2013 two courses (English and Spanish) were planned to take place. The English course took place in March

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			is integrated in the ILO workplace health promotion programme One of the main tools for the implementation of the programme is the training package SOLVE: integrating health promotion in occupational safety and health policies The SOLVE methodology was reviewed and updated in 2011. The training package addresses the following areas and their interactions: managing workplace health promotion; work-related stress; alcohol and drugs at work; violence at work; HIV and AIDS at work; tobacco and smoke-free workplaces; nutrition at work; physical activity for health; healthy sleep and economic stress. At the end of the training, participants are able to design a preventive programme and plan of action dealing with all the above-mentioned subjects and implement them in their workplace The package includes: a participant's workbook; a trainer's guide; the lesson plans; a CD-ROM with participants' names and background material	A number of United Nations agencies and multinationals have expressed their interest in being trained by ILO on the SOLVE methodology, including FAO, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNDP. An ad hoc training course could be organized for the United Nations system at ITC if funds are made available and an adequate number of participants are identified. The maximum number of participants for this highly interactive course is 25. The interest to be trained in the methodology could be explored among the agencies involved in the Task Force

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			Since 2011, it has been integrated in the curricula of ITC in Turin, Italy, and it is run as a train-the-trainers course every year, at least in one of the three languages. The purpose of the train-the-trainers course is to contribute to improving national competences in Member States to support workplace health promotion. Consequently, the SOLVE programme is also implemented in the framework of decent work country programmes, in collaboration with relevant national authorities and employers' and workers' organizations, as well as training specialists, public services, safety and health practitioners, and non-governmental organizations. SOLVE uses the social dialogue approach to promote the implementation of successful workplace and community initiatives with the involvement of key stakeholders. Regarding tobacco, SOLVE promotes the strengthening of measures to protect workers' health from tobacco smoke, creating smoke-free workplaces, supporting measures addressing tobacco dependence and encouraging cessation through referral for counselling,	

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			psychological support, nicotine replacement and education programmes, as well as information on available support and health-care services. Reference is also made to the sharing of good practices, international and national regulatory measures and their enforcement, including the Framework Convention TC	
Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Discuss with partners legal options on packaging and labelling of tobacco products under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights		Study planned on packaging and labelling of tobacco products from an intellectual property perspective. Results envisaged for the third quarter of 2013
Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (International Bureau of Education)	Include tobacco awareness in school curricula and teacher training Promote smoke-free schools		
	World Bank	Integrate tobacco control in education programmes within trust funds	Not initiated	May be possible to initiate this year
Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)	World Customs Organization	Provide support to the future implementation of the Protocol on Illicit Trade		

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Article 17 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities)	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Agriculture Department)	Provide technical support in tobacco-growing areas for sustainable crop production intensification with the goal of diversifying production, reduce environmental and health impacts and the risk of tobacco growers depending on a single product (subject to funding)		
	FAO (Economic and Social Development Department)	Update of the world tobacco production and market situation (subject to funding: minimum budget required $50,000)		
	UNCTAD	Collaborate with key partners, including international agencies, to conduct research and analysis of the tobacco supply chain "from the farm to the cigarette". Carry out a study on export diversification strategies in tobacco-producing developing countries in Africa and Asia		Study planned on tobacco value chain analysis and diversification. Study envisaged to be finalized in the third quarter of 2013. Focus on Africa A "diagnostic" study will review export diversification policies and strategies of tobacco-producing developing countries in Africa and Asia
	International Labour Organization (ILO)	Provide expert input to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Working Group on articles 17 and 18	On article 18: national capacity-building workshop on implementation of the Safety and Health in Agriculture: code of practice With regard to article 17 per se, see below Translation of the code into Russian and Arabic	Zimbabwe

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		Update a 2003 study on the state of employment in the tobacco sector globally	Work already undertaken	Publication on hold; will be decided after tripartite consultation
		Develop an economic and labour market analysis	Ongoing on a permanent basis	These areas of work fall under the responsibility of various ILO units and departments. Work in these areas is produced on a continuous and permanent basis
		Toolkit on agricultural cooperatives		
		Training material for establishing small enterprises		
		Local development		
		Value chain development tools (rural)		
		Rural skills development tools		
		Develop research on diagnostic and scope studies on decent work, food security and alternatives for tobacco growers		
		Promote social dialogue to support economically viable livelihoods for tobacco growers and workers		
	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Promote a green economy framework for economically viable alternatives for tobacco growers and workers		

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	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	While not specific to the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention, WIPO provides technical assistance and capacity-building support to Governments and institutions for actions to help farmers add value to their crops and agribusinesses using branding and intellectual property tools		
Article 18 (Protection of the environment and the health of persons)	UNEP	Provide technical assistance related to: • Sound management of chemicals in tobacco growing • Environment audit/impact assessment of tobacco growing • Integrating tobacco-related issues within national environmental protection programmes		
Articles 20, 21 and 22 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information; reporting and exchange of information; cooperation in the scientific,	UNCTAD	Share databases and information on: • Developing trade information systems on tobacco jointly with WHO • Trade indicators, such as export revenue • Trade data (all bilateral official trade data)	Meeting held with the WHO Tobacco Free Initiative on trade data issues to discuss availability and potential process	Most of these data can be made available upon request in 2013

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technical and legal fields, and provision of related experience)		• Border measures including import tariffs and tariff rate quotas • Non-tariff measures		
	UNDP	Integrate Convention/ non-communicable diseases reporting into the *Human Development Report*		Integrate non-communicable diseases into the 2014 report.
	World Bank	Cooperate with WHO for harmonizing of tobacco questions into surveys such as the *Living Standards Measurement Study* and like surveys, and provide input with regard to existing questions on tobacco in WHO surveys Cooperate with the Convention secretariat to analyse data collected from the reporting instrument	Effort launched with WHO but no follow-up yet	Try to re-engage with WHO
	ILO	Information/knowledge-sharing on: • Databases on labour market indicators, including employment data in the tobacco sector • Occupational injuries statistics from household surveys • Databases on labour standards		

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		• Databases on child labour (SIMPOC) • Decent work country profiles and programmes		
Cross cutting issues				
Development	UNDP	Integrate issues related to the Framework Convention/ non-communicable diseases into discussions held at Rio+20 and into post-Millennium Development Goals discussions Incorporate issues related to the Framework Convention/ non-communicable diseases into the Millennium Development Goals acceleration framework (focus on Goals 4 and 5) Integrate issues related to the Framework Convention/ non-communicable diseases into United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes/guidelines/policy coherence/multisector convening Provide support for operational research to ensure that development instruments (e.g. social protection) do not have a negative impact on progress in combating non-communicable diseases.	Non-communicable diseases mentioned in Rio+20 outcome document, "The future we want" UNDP acted on the United Nations Advisory Group to the health thematic consultation and ensured inclusion of non-communicable diseases and tobacco Baseline assessment of the degree of integration of the Framework Convention into development instruments (co-publication with the Framework Convention secretariat) Acceleration framework in Tonga on non-communicable diseases	Provision of technical support to Resident Coordinators' offices to fully implement post needs assessment action plan execution with the Parties Review of tobacco as a component of the post-2015 development agenda Follow-up to integration assessment to develop tools for Framework Convention integration into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks Operational research regarding non-communicable disease-sensitive social protection in the Caribbean region Provision of support to at least one Pacific island country to assess the poverty and broader development impacts of tobacco use, ultimately to help position tobacco within national development strategies and facilitate whole-of-Government responses

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	UN-Women	Advocate for the inclusion of gender advocates and women's organizations at all levels of policymaking and the implementation of the Framework Convention		
		Advocate for the elimination of the targeted marketing of tobacco products towards women, particularly young women, and provide support for the promotion of gender-specific tobacco control strategies that have an impact on women's health		
	UNCTAD	Raise awareness among developing and developed country policymakers about the possible interaction between international investment agreements and the Framework Convention		International investment agreement issues a note on international investment agreements and tobacco control policies in the second quarter of 2013
		Provide assistance in sustainable friendly approaches to the (re)negotiation and interpretation of international investment agreements		
Trade (and investment)	UNCTAD	Promote coherence between international investment agreements and other public policies/bodies of international law (e.g. the Framework Convention)	UNCTAD established an internal working group on tobacco control issues and development, covering areas of trade, investment, intellectual property and commodities	Opening of the UNCTAD international investment agreement training courses to a limited number of health experts in 2013

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	UNCTAD	Update analysis on trade and tobacco control (e.g. implications of existing and new agreements, and regional blocks), for inclusion in the report to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session	Owing to a study published by WHO in 2012 on that topic, this analysis will not be carried out	
	WTO	Within the scope of its mandate, cooperate with the Framework Convention secretariat to share information on the interface between trade policies and tobacco control		
	World Bank	Help facilitate an internal dialogue between World Bank colleagues working on trade and those working on public health to do work on trade and tobacco issues	Efforts made, but not yet successful	Efforts to be continued

Annex II

Members of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control

- Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- International Labour Organization
- International Monetary Fund
- International Telecommunication Union
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Secretariat of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Fund for International Partnerships
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- United Nations Population Fund
- World Bank
- World Customs Organization
- World Health Organization
- World Intellectual Property Organization
- World Trade Organization